



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held April 10, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“During World War II, 250,000 Filipino men joined the United States Armed Forces in the months before and the days just after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. For the next several years, they represented the United States on the battlefield, in war camps, and as part of the guerrilla resistance. Accordingly, Washington promised them the same health and pension benefits as their American brothers.

“However, on February 18, 1946, the Congress passed and President Truman signed Public Law 70-301, known as the Rescission Act of 1946. It states that the service of Filipinos ‘shall not be deemed to be or to have been service in the military or National forces of the United States or any component thereof or any law of the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits.’

“Sixty-one years later, their cause has been taken up by Representative Bob Filner and Senator Daniel Inouye, who have introduced the Filipino Veterans Equity Act in Congress which would grant them full benefits.

“Less than 70,000 Filipino veterans are still alive today, and that number dwindles as the youngest of them approach eighty. While the military benefits are much needed, perhaps even more importantly to these men, is that their service will ultimately be recognized.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Chief Administrative Officer's Intergovernmental Unit was instructed to take the following actions:

1. Actively support H.R. 760 (Filner) and S. 57 (Inouye), the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007," legislation which would deem certain service in organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts, to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and
2. Send a five-signature letter to Representative Bob Filner and Senators Daniel Inouye, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation expressing the Board's support of this legislation.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel